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THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 1908.

Mr. Roosevelt's Latest Message.

"In the modern business world combinations are
absolutely necessary."

"The time has come when we should prepare for
a revision of the tariff."

These two sentences strike the key-
notes of President Roosevelt's brief mes-
sage urging immediate action by Congress
on various legislative measures due to the
Executive heart. Neither proposition is
a novelty in economic discussion,
though both contain ample material for
partisan controversy. The first has often
been expressed in Mr. Roosevelt's mes-
sages, for he has always consistently op-
posed the idea that governmental action
could prevent the centralization or co-
ordination of trade and industry, or that
it should be invoked to that end. Be-
lieving that the economic forces working
toward what many people believe to be
the maligned concentration of power in
channels of public usefulness, Mr. Roose-
velt has steadily advocated the modifica-
tion of the Sherman anti-trust law, under
which every combination in restraint of
trade is declared illegal, no matter what
legitimate purpose it may serve.

His present recommendations on this
head are more specific than heretofore.
They are given body and substance in
the bill prepared by the Civil Federation
and introduced by Mr. Hepburn in the
House. This measure is long and compli-
cated, and covers more ground than was
absolutely necessary in order to square
the Sherman act with the reasonable de-
mands of modern business conditions. Its
essential feature is the bestowal of au-
thority on the Bureau of Corporations and
the Interstate Commerce Commission to
pass on the legitimacy of contracts, agree-
ments, and combinations in restraint of
trade. By lodging this authority in
these governmental bodies, it is sought
to exercise a certain indefinite measure
of supervision over such railroad and in-
dustrial combinations as voluntarily sub-
mit their transactions to governmental
inspection. How supervision of this sort
will operate in practice can only be
learned by experience. Possibly it would
be well to limit the scope of supervisory
powers by a careful definition of the
things to be permitted or prevented.

An important section of the Hepburn
measure relieves combinations of laborers
from the operation of the Sherman law
so far as it affects their right to strike
or to make agreements with employers,
but it does not confer the right to boy-
cott, as some labor leaders think it
should. On this point the President de-
clares that "nothing should be done to
legalize either a boycott or a boycott
that would be illegal at common law."
As this declaration is far from satisfac-
tory to organized labor as represented by
Mr. Gompers, it is evident that there will
be some feeling among union men that
they are not getting the equivalent of
the concessions granted capital by the
proposed changes in the Sherman law.

Concerning tariff revision, Mr. Roose-
velt adopts the plan exploited by the
leaders of his party in Congress, of in-
stituting an inquiry into the subject of
the tariff preparatory to the introduction
of a tariff bill at an extra session of the
Sixty-first Congress to be called immedi-
ately after the inauguration of the next
President. Such an inquiry, if conducted
in the right spirit, and not merely for
campaign purposes, might prove useful,
and it would undoubtedly expedite tariff
legislation in the next Congress. Mr.
Roosevelt renews his recommendation of
last December for a removal of the duties
on wood pulp and print paper—a recom-
mendation that ought to be headed at the
capitol. What the Republican party
needs is not so much tariff facts as tariff
convictions of a different order from those
which have hitherto animated its tariff
policy. A bill putting print paper on
the free list would do more to convince
the public that tariff revision means some-
thing than reams of discussion or months
of investigation.

Ornamentation of Naval Chaplains.

The chaplains of the United States navy
are not likely to realize the desires which,
it is imagined, are disclosed in the
bills which have been introduced in Con-
gress and which are now the subject of
adverse comment on the part of the Bu-
reau of Navigation, to which branch of
the Navy Department are submitted all
measures relating to the naval personnel.
One of the bills seeks to increase the
personnel of the corps of chaplains, while
the other would impose an obligation by
statute that chaplains shall wear the same
uniform as line officers of corresponding
rank. The Navy Department takes the
position on the first proposition that the
corps of chaplains does not need to be
increased and that if there are not enough
of the chaplains at sea, it is a simple
matter to detach those who are now on
duty at navy yards and assign them to
duty on board ship. It would not appear
to be necessary to keep chaplains on
shore duty beyond the period to which they
are entitled as a relief from duty afloat.

The intention is conveyed from the Navy
Department that if Congress regards it
as an imperative condition that there
should be more chaplains available for
duty on shipboard, it is an easy thing to
send some or all of the navy yard chap-
lains to sea. Moreover, it is recommended
by the Secretary of the Navy that addi-
tional chaplains needed shall be of tempo-
rary tenure of office, with the idea that
vacancies occurring in the permanent per-
sonnel of the corps shall be filled from
among those who have demonstrated their

fitness as acting chaplains. Both sugges-
tions are wise and prudent.

When it comes to the attempt to estab-
lish official dress by law in the case of
one branch of the naval service, the ap-
pel for "relief" takes on a ridiculous
aspect. The chaplain who is interested in
his work should have no anxiety over his
service apparel. He can preach or teach
quite as well in one garb as another,
and the closer the chaplain of the army
or navy sticks to the conventional dis-
tinctive and characteristic dress of his
calling, the better for his cause. He does
not need a redundancy of decoration to
add in the least to his influence, and he
is the more valuable as a counselor and
friend in proportion to the distance he
gets from sartorial splendor. The propo-
sition to give a military grandeur to the
dress of the chaplain assuredly cannot
be favored by those who are devoted to
their work and serious in its performance.

Now, then, let the jingoes all bunch
up for one final and conclusive "book"
on April 1.

Texas Will Decide.

Some time ago, The Washington Her-
ald, in commenting upon Senator Bailey's
recent masterly speech in the United
States Senate, expressed the hope that
Texas's election as one of that State's
delegates-at-large to the forthcoming
Democratic convention a final and con-
clusive test of his character in his home
State, and render a verdict based upon
justice and right, to the end that all out-
side uncertainty as to that matter might
be forever set at rest.

The Houston Post, an ardent champion
of the Senator, one of the fairest and
squarest newspapers in the United States,
as well as a publication of highest stand-
ing and integrity at home, thinks this
proposition reasonable, and puts the en-
tire country on notice that Texas is will-
ing to do this. The Post thinks, however,
and with it we heartily agree, that Texas's
verdict should be accepted without quibble
by the nation as one rendered in good
faith and based upon facts, not intangible
and vague rumors, statements or what-
not.

Says the Post:

"Now, if these outside rumors and people,
who know nothing of the facts, are really
minded and fair, let them act in good faith and
shoulder the burden of the issue. The
people of Texas will act understandingly upon
all the issues involved. Those who are not in-
formed will be when the time comes to vote,
and the people of the country and the newspapers
will be able to judge of the issue."

That is eminently equitable and frank.
Indeed, it is quite in line with The Her-
ald's suggestion. We take the position
that Mr. Bailey is too able a man to be
hampered in his usefulness as he has
been of recent years. The Senate needs
his services; but even more does his party
need them. He cannot be a half-way man;
it isn't in his make-up to do it. More-
over, it is the truth, as the Post in-
dicates, that the outside world, and Texas,
probably, does not understand just
what it is that has been charged against
the Senator, or how far any charges are
justified, if at all. Now that Texas pro-
poses to speak in no uncertain tones, the
country may well pause until May 2, and
in the meantime make up its mind, thor-
oughly and without reservation, to accept
Texas's word, whatever it may be, as to
the qualifications of its brilliant son.

We are glad to note that the Atlanta
Georgian doesn't carry its reforming
spelling ideas to utterly foolish lengths
anyhow. It still sticks to "huckleberry"
in preference to "whortleberry."

A Distressing Failure of Justice.

The difficulty of convicting and pun-
ishing political grafters is notorious.
When the lower courts are not to be
convicted, the higher courts only too fre-
quently reverse the verdict on some
quibble or other based on a narrow and
literal interpretation of the law favorable
to the defendant. Gov. Folk, when a
prosecuting attorney, succeeded in con-
victing a number of unquestionably guilty
bribe-bearers whose transactions he brought
to light out of the dark places of St.
Louis politics. Probably most people
have forgotten that all these bribe-bearers
were released by a higher court, which,
though admitting their guilt, reversed the
verdicts for technical reasons of the flimsiest
character. The latest and most flagrant
example of this sort of justice is afforded by the decision of the
Supreme Court of California releasing
Eugene E. Schmitz, the former mayor of
San Francisco. That decision, as every
lawyer, say, technically correct, is a
legal logic may be flawless, yet it is a
mere travesty of justice, and its moral
influence is of the most deplorable char-
acter.

Schmitz was indicted for extorting money
from certain resorts in San Francisco.
His method was to induce the police com-
missioner to order the closing of the resorts,
or to threaten to refuse licenses, which the
keepers of the resorts were then given
a tip that they would be well to retain
Abe Ruef, then political boss, as their
attorney. At Ruef's request, the police
commissioner rescinded the orders to close,
or granted the licenses, and Ruef di-
vided his fee with Schmitz. But this was
not extortion, in the opinion of the Cali-
fornia Supreme Court, because Schmitz
did not threaten to do an unlawful act.
To threaten to commit a lawful act is
not extortion, according to California law.
As usual in such cases, fault is found
with the indictment. The paper did
not clearly allege a crime; it failed to
state that Schmitz was mayor of San
Francisco, that Ruef was a political boss,
that the "defendant threatened to prevent
the issuance of the license by unlawful
means, and not solely by lawful and
innocent persuasion and argument." The
presumption being in favor of inno-
cence, "if the facts stated may be
construed to constitute a crime, the pre-
sumption is that no crime is charged." In
other words, although the man may be
guilty, the court will free him if plau-
sible technical reasons may be found for
letting him go.

The immediate effect of this unrighteous
decision was to dampen the ardor and
dash the hopes of those who have been
trying for the past two years to clean
up municipal politics in San Francisco.
It has given Schmitz an opportunity to
assert his "vindication" and to pose as a
glorified hero tried in the fire of or-
deal. It has imbued his co-conspirator
against the public weal, Abe Ruef, with
fresh spirit to fight his prosecutors, be-
cause he now sees that it will be im-
possible to convict him. Graft has been
revived among the police, who are
extorting money from divekeepers and
gamblers, in the belief that, under the
Supreme Court decision, they are not
committing indictable crime. Corrupt
police reason that if they do es-
tablish the same things that Schmitz
and Ruef did, the courts will protect
them as they did the men highest up.
What shall we say of the administration
of justice that protects and encourages
crime and discourages the efforts of pro-
secutors and good citizens to stamp it
out?

It may be asserted, and with some

reason, that the legislature ought to make
sure that the statutes cover every con-
ceivable form and variety which crime may
assume, and that prosecuting attorneys
should draw indictments with accuracy.
But admitting all this, have not the courts
a duty to perform to society other
than that of picking flaws in the proceed-
ings of trial courts, or deliberately seeking
presumptions of innocence? Which is
the greater wrong to the Commonwealth—
that a trivial error in indictment should
be overlooked, or that an obvious criminal
should be allowed to go unpunished? Why
should the court pass by the guilt of
the defendants, as in the St. Louis
bribe cases, and fasten its attention
on an insignificant variation between the
indictment and the judge's charge? Is
there no larger justice which looks to the
good of the community, instead of the
salvation of the criminal by legal quib-
bles?

"Four years ago to-day who gave the
name of Alton B. Parker serious consid-
eration?" Inquires the New York Mail.
Well, as many people as give it serious
consideration to-day anyhow.

The Minority in Congress.

Minority Leader Williams' announce-
ment that the Democratic side of the
House would use all its parliamentary
power under the rules to force the ma-
jority to abandon its do-nothing policy
promises to enlighten matters somewhat.
Coming almost contemporaneously with
the President's message, Mr. Williams'
determination to have a hand in the
game indicates that there may be more
activity at the Capitol than has been an-
ticipated. So far as the minority is con-
cerned, it is about time for a Democratic
awakening. The opposition in both
Houses has been notoriously feeble and
inefficient. Doubtless Democratic support
of administration measures has had a
good deal to do with stopping the mouths
of opposition critics, but this hardly ac-
counts in full for failure to make out a
colorable case against the majority. In
the Senate the situation is even worse,
from a partisan standpoint, than in the
House. More often than not it is diffi-
cult to discern party lines in debate or
in voting. At least two important measures
that in times gone by would have aroused
strong Democratic opposition have lately
passed the Senate without a dissenting
vote. If Mr. Culbertson is troublesome
to the majority, we have failed to notice any
symptoms of it.

Although the Democrats have but one-
third of the Senate membership, a small
minority in that body can conduct a very
effective opposition. In the House the
Democrats have 167 members and the Re-
publicans 224. With so large a body as
this, the House minority ought to be able
to exercise a strong influence over the
course of legislation, in spite of the
shocking lack of unity. Whether the in-
ertia and incapacity of the House minority
and incapacity of the House minority
is a fault of leadership we shall not at-
tempt to say. Mr. Williams promises that
for the future his leadership will signify
something more than mere verbal protest
or tame acquiescence in the drifting policy
of the majority. An effort is to be made
to produce results. Well, the country
wants tangible evidence that the Demo-
cratic party in Congress has some reason
for being. Let us see what happens when
Mr. Williams gets to work.

"The Iowa Republicans are in favor of
tariff revision—next year," says the Mont-
gomery Advertiser. Sure; that's where
they have stood for several years, and
probably will stand for several more to
come.

While it didn't lead in sectionalism,
Senator La Follette's speech certainly
was sectional.

And now comes a physician who says
automobiles are great germ collectors.
Well, there is this about that: the auto-
mobile germ will not be apt to bite any-
body not amply able to hire a doctor.

A wicked railroad train was held one
hour the other day in order that Gov.
Hoke Smith might attend some races at
Savannah. And a number of "common
people" were riding on the train at the
time as mere passengers, too!

As the result of a newspaper row be-
tween the Nashville American and Ten-
nessean, the former will donate \$500 to
charity. Newspaper squabbles are, as a
rule, extremely tiresome, but this one's
finish was worth while, anyhow.

The prohibitionists are certainly going
some. One of them is demanding "inter-
national prohibition."

Among 1,100 prisoners in the Kansas
penitentiary, there isn't one newspaper
man. Of course, that is gratifying, from
the point of view of the prison. It must be
terribly dull for the prisoners.

"King Alfonso's wife is just like a
woman," says the Columbia State. Yes,
indeed; in fact, she is a woman!

A few days ago The Washington Her-
ald inadvertently credited Congressman
Heflin to South Carolina. Now the Pal-
metto State is up in arms and threatens
all kinds of things, but Alabama isn't
saying a word. What's the matter,
brethren?

Prince Helle came over "incoo," which
doubtless means he left winter overcoat
and diamond stud across the water "in
hock."

Prof. Marizolog, of Vienna, has de-
parted these shores, after an extensive
tour of the great West. Zolog, Mari?

"The reactionary may as well make up
his mind to one thing; he must swallow
either Taft or Roosevelt," says an Ohio
contemporary. Of course, if it's a case
of "must," it would appear much easier
to swallow the latter.

Just at this time, every baseball team in
the land has the pennant nailed down-
in its mind!

A man charged with bigamy down
South has moved to quash the indictment
against him because he has three wives
instead of two, hence cannot be guilty
of "bigamy." The indictment alleges
that he did not know what the courts will
rule—you can't tell these days—but it
would seem that the man must be guilty
of something along that line.

Sings the Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch:
"Just the days to contemplate the rod,
the line, and the bottle of bait." To use
\$9 worth of flies catching "beauties" 'bout
this—size.

"Democratic harmony on the wane" is
the amazing headline in a Texas contem-
porary!

The Danville Register informs us that
the pianist "Gyongyoshasz" has just
made a name for himself in New York.
Well, in the name of simplified spelling,
was "Gyongyoshasz" the best he could do?

Pay-as-you-enter street cars are new,
of course, but pay-as-you-enter jackpots
are not, especially.

Haiti's unusually dark past argues ill
for a brighter future.

"A fashion writer says clothing should
match the hair this year," according to
the Richmond News Leader. Yes, but—
well, there are Senators Gallinger and
Taft, for instance!

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

THE NEW WAY.

No more kissing, so they say.
Of the little tad.
Kissed, as we know to-day.
Is extremely bad.
No more cake with icing white,
Baby turning blue.
No more fairy tales at night;
They are only lies.

No more heat; though baby freeze,
Stopped is every flue.
Helpless grandma, sadly sees,
Baby turning blue.
No one dares the boss to bait,
Giver of the law.
Baby has a down-to-date
Scientific ma.

In a College Town.

Do the co-eds ever get glistenous?
"Indeed, they do. And when they start
on a rampage, every manly establish-
ment in town barricades."

Spring.

"Spring is good for the poets," re-
marked the first half of the sketch.
"And that's about all it is good for,"
growled the second half, as he climbed
out of a puddle of slush.

At a House Party.

"I hate to visit where they have new
maids."
"They are often inexperienced."
"Yes, and they haven't had time to
learn the family scandals."

The Elopers.

Dad to forgive them did agree.
For they were mere kids.
But said the price of board would be
Seven per cent.

A Woman's Privilege.

"She asked me what an operation for
appendicitis would cost. I told her a
thousand dollars."
"And did the poor woman have appen-
dicitis, doc?"
"She was a rich woman, and she didn't
have it. She was just shopping."

Then the Deluge.

"Well, where's that cook?" demanded
his wife. "Don't tell me she wasn't on
the train."
"She was on the train," timidly ex-
plained the commuter, "but I got to play-
ing cards and a Lonesville man won her
at whist!"

Mechanical Toys.

"What do you think of Johnny's me-
chanical toys?"
"Reminds me of the Illinois."
"As to how?"
"It works not, neither does it spit."

A ROMANCE OF POLITICS.

Col. Waterson Muses, Amazed, on
Mr. Roosevelt's Career.

Henry Waterson, in Louisville Courier-Journal.
Theodore Roosevelt lived to be forty
years of age with no other preparation
for the transcendent responsibilities of
the Chief Magistracy than could be ob-
tained from their prior services as a
Commissioner respectively of Civil Service
at Washington, and the Board of Police
in New York, and an Under-Secretary
of the Navy, with a legislative term
or two at Albany. He had been a reader
and writer of books. He was a gentleman
by birth and breeding, a Harvard grad-
uate.

It is safe to say that, when he
was named for one of the administrative
departments of the government in 1891,
an official cul-de-sac from any political,
or aspiring point of view—no one antici-
pated an ambitious future for him; assur-
edly, he was undreamed of for President.
The events which hurried him into the
governorship of the Empire State and
the Vice Presidency of the United States
and, by a flash of lightning, into the
White House, equal those of any narra-
tive of history.

From that day to this his career has
been a succession of what may be fairly
called adventures; his everyday life a
tour de force. When the tragic summons
came it found him in the mountains. He
had not seemed to cross his mind that the
gravity of the occasion bade him main-
tain a serious sense of it and to keep in
easy reach. The succeeding forest ex-
peditions may be regarded either as the
irrepressible effervescence of the spirit
of the hunter, or as shrewd, self-exploit-
ing performances carefully planned and
executed.

From every consideration the
world has been quick to apply to great
affairs, rather suited to the laissez faire
of Kings than the dignity of statesmen.
Yet they caught the mood of the time
and the heart of the multitude and gave
birth to the most diverting toy that ever
came into being, the delight of countless
hundreds and hundreds of children from
whose fancy can never be dissociated the
wonderful Theodore Roosevelt and their
beloved "Teddy bears."

The ride through the rain with the
German Prince; the pedestrian tourneys
with certain favored gentlemen of the
Congress; the "dinner" of the very gam-
bols with the youngsters in the White
House; all of a piece with a continuous
and spectacular entertainment, unrivaled
on the real, or mimic scene.

Outside the years

Nor has this public life fallen behind
the pace set by his personal conduct.
Audax, audacious, and again audacious,
the lawless suspension of a post-office
in Mississippi to the hazardous
capture of a gambler, an indefatigable
giant; like Mr. Malspater, a sober pater
familias giant; like Mrs. Malspater, a
Cerberus, "three gentlemen in one," now
a hero of natural history and now the
master-dinner of the spinning bee. Bri-
tannicus, with one foot upon the corpo-
rations and the other upon the whole
of man; to-day, forcing a negro officer
upon South Carolina, to-morrow claiming
kindred with Lee and Stonewall Jackson,
and having his claim allowed; our first
truly National President, half Northern
and half Southern; a Yankee crossed on
a Rebel, compelling the Republican party
and commander of the bloody statesmen;
Dingley, of bloody shirism and high pro-
tectionism, to change its coat of phre-
nology and fall in behind the van of popu-
lar righteousness and reform.

Was ever the like seen outside the
phantasmagoria of comic opera? The
future, where even the Bismarcks and
Disraelis of history will seem a little
dull and commonplace in the light of the
flashing, machine-like and wireless state-
ship of a modern Teddy bear existence.

Mr. Wilson strolled over to the Senate
side of the Capitol yesterday and stood
for a while in the Senate chamber talk-
ing with Senator Brown, of Nebraska. But
while he stood there he rested comfortably
upon the back of a chair.

Senator Smoot, of Utah, takes a large
part in the doings of the Upper House,
and he is very nervous when he has to sit
and listen to statements from other Sen-
ators with which he does not agree. He
has an unfortunate habit of wearing a
palpable sneer on such occasions, but the
speakers never seem to notice his disap-
proval. It may be just the appearance
of a sneer, but the resemblance is very
marked.

Another of the steady habits of the tall
and slender Senator from the Mormon
State is giving advice. He frequently
takes a seat near a Senator of his own
party who may be making a speech,
especially if it is in the defense of the Al-
dridge bill, and he coaches the Senator
from start to finish. He seems to be very
fond of the Aldridge bill, and never loses
an opportunity to put in a good word
for it.

From the Atlanta Journal.

Mr. Tiltman's remarks concerning
Roosevelt lend color to the rumor that he
intends to scratch the ticket if both par-
ties nominate the Rough Rider this sum-
mer.

Gov. Johnson's Conservatism.

From the New York Evening Post.

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against the charge of over-friendliness
to the "interests" after signing that Min-
nesota rate bill?

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